


Good, Bad and Ugly Tool Control

By AVCM(AW) Dave Kennon



Good toolbox modification

Here are a few toolbox examples I found on various surveys.

Good: Tool won't stay in place? Reconfigure the box and submit a deviation request


to make it work! This simple solution will help the disappearing-Allen-wrench-through-the-hole trick. Attach a small piece of aluminum bent at a 90-degree angle, rivet it to the side panel above the original holes, and voila!—the tools stay in place. A trickier solution is required for small combination wrenches. The small combo wrench must be put elsewhere, either with clips or Velcro fastened to a panel to hold the tool.

Bad: Poor tool quality in the supply system. In


the interest of saving money, the system uses various means to purchase tools. The No. 1 option is to use the system-assigned NIIN to replace worn tools. One problem is the people between the maintainer and the manufacturers aren't aware of the differences between good-quality tools and cheap imitations. This example shows the differences between the two. These No. 1 easy-outs (identified by the stamp on the shaft) are used as a last resort to remove fasteners. The high-quality tool has a narrow point that is you must insert into the fastener to provide a good bite. The poor-quality tool is wider at the tip than the other, requiring extra drilling into the fastener for the tool to fit—this is a bad thing.

Ugly: This tool won't stay in place because of poor materials, poor workmanship, or bad design. Nobody likes to take apart a toolbox to retrieve tools that fell through holes designed to keep them in place. Some people attach safety wire or tape to hold the tool—nice idea but ugly execution (see the photo below). It's an unauthorized mod, may make the item unusable, and could be a FOD hazard. A small platform (or shelf) made of aluminum, shaped like a 'U,' and attached between the sides of the center panel will keep the extensions from falling through. A small lip is added to the sides of the platform to keep the extensions from sliding off.

Master Chief Kennon is a maintenance analyst at the Naval Safety Center.



Bad tool purchase



Ugly and unauthorized safety wire.